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6-5-12

On Friday, May 26, 2012, our son, Oliver Satchell Smith, died after smoking a form of synthetic Cannabis which he had purchased legally at a local gas station. He was 18 years old.

Oliver was a boy that carried a soulful light in his smile. Rooms, and more importantly, people lit up when he smiled. His smile was who he was. Oliver was our son. He knew he was loved – he was told every day he lived – and was never shy about giving love to those he knew. Oliver was Austin and Preston's brother. Oliver was a nephew, cousin, dear friend, fellow scout, teammate, neighbor and acquaintance. We will remember Oliver forever as the son and brother we so proudly shared with the world for 18 years – and know that just because he left us doesn't mean that he loves us any less.

It is critical that we shine a white hot spotlight on the fact that unregulated, highly addictive, deadly synthetic drugs, made solely for the purpose of being smoked, are being distributed and sold all across Michigan and several other states. Retailers who sell these products are knowingly profiting from pain, suffering and in far too many cases death.

On October 28, 1993 God gave us a beautiful boy. On May 25, 2012, a man-made drug took him from us. We applaud and fully support your efforts to ban these drugs from store shelves. As a result of your legislation, immeasurable suffering and senseless death can be avoided.

Sincere regards,

Larry, Mary Jo, Austin and Preston Smith